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Sen. Hardiman issues statement on passage of racinos bill

LANSING — Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, offered the following comments on passage of the racinos bill, House Bill 4610, which he voted against:

“I oppose this racinos bill because I oppose the expansion of gambling in our state. Just because we already have casinos and the state Lottery, we do not have to continue allowing more and more outlets for serious gambling. Make no mistake, this bill sets a goal of an aggressive, new escalation of gambling in Michigan.

“How can we stand before our constituents and say we are fulfilling our fiscal responsibility for the state budget when we place our trust in a scheme of gambling and easy pay-offs that won’t even be realized for this fiscal year or perhaps the next? Most of all, how can we stand before the voters and say it is good to have more gambling when we know the downside of financial ruin, family strife and personal tragedy that will afflict many state residents?”

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